



WEDA 2024 Summer Conference Agenda *Sprinting Towards a More Equitable Future*

June 18-20, 2024 – Spokane, WA – as of 6/17/2024 5:03 PM

Tuesday, June 18

2:00-4:00 pm

Economic Development for the Future Highlights Tours – pre-registration required through WEDA’s online conference platform, Swapcard

- **Downtown Spokane Tour: Place-Based Economic Development through the Downtown Spokane Partnership, a Business Improvement District**
Check in time 1:45 pm; Tour 2:00 – 4:00 pm (30 person limit)

Start in Main Lobby of Davenport Grand. **Important Note:** Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

Led by: Emilie Cameron, President & CEO, Downtown Spokane Partnership

- **Spokane Sports & Recreation Tourism Tour: Spokane Arena, Centennial Trail & The Podium Powered by STCU hosted by Spokane Sports**
Check in time 1:45 pm; Tour 2:00 – 4:00 pm (30 person limit)

Start in Main Lobby of Davenport Grand. **Important Note:** Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

Led by: Ashley Blake, CEO, Spokane Sports

7:30-9:00 pm

Reenergizing as We Sprint Forward Together: “First Quarter” Social Welcome Gathering (non-hosted) – Terrace Room West
Davenport Grand
333 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane

Wednesday, June 19

Most meetings and events will be held at the: Davenport Grand, 333 West Spokane Falls Boulevard in Spokane. Please note all offsite locations.

9:30-11:15 am WEDA Q2/Q3 Board Meeting – *Board Members & WEDA Staff only*
– Skybridge Board Room

10:00-11:00 am ***Upping Our Game for Our Economic Future: Pre-Conference Professional Development Workshops***

Pre-Conference Professional Development Workshop: Nourishing Relationships - Connecting Equitable and Sustainable Networks of Support for Small Businesses in Washington – Meeting Room 4

Sponsor: Washington State Microenterprise Association

Host: Jim Hagar, Economic Development Project Manager, Port of Vancouver USA

Workshop Leader: Lisa Smith, Executive Director, Washington State Microenterprise Association

- Erin Adams, Executive Director, Seattle Good Business Network
- Chandler Lewis, Managing Director & Founder, 360 Social Impact Studios & Managing Partner, Enough Ventures
- Ashley Stallworth, Executive Director and Founder, Minority Hemp Builders Assoc.

Pre-Conference Professional Development Workshop: Utilizing Business Improvement Areas to Drive Local Economies (How to Create, Renew, Expand, Support and Partner with BIAs) – Meeting Room 5

Sponsor: Eat Local First

Host: Aaron Weinberg, Economic Development Manager – Strategic Projects, Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County

Workshop Leader: Jacqueline Robinette, Organizational Development Lead, Uncommon Bridges (*formerly BDS Planning*)

11:30 am Registration, Buffet Lunch & Networking – Grand Ballroom Lobby

11:40 am-2:00 pm **Opening General Session** – Grand Ballroom A

Sponsor: Greater Spokane Inc.

Host: Betty Capestany, Pierce County Director of Economic Development & WEDA Board Chair

Tribal Land Acknowledgment: Warren Seyler, Tribal Historian, Spokane Tribe of Indians

Juneteenth Acknowledgment: Vaughn Taylor, Vice President of Economic Development, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

About Juneteenth: *Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 to take control of the state, freed 250,000 enslaved African Americans and ensured that all enslaved people be freed. The troops’ arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of*

the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.

Local Government Welcome: City of Spokane Mayor Lisa Brown

Update & Insights from the International Economic Development Council:

Nathan Ohle, President & CEO, IEDC

Host: Gary Ballew, Vice President for Economic Development, Greater Spokane Inc. & WEDA Board Member

Opening Remarks from WEDA Leadership & Sponsors

12:40-2:00 pm

Creating a More Equitable Economic Future for All of Washington State

Keynote Speaker: Andrea Caupain Sanderson, Co-Executive Director, BIPOC ED (Executive Directors) Coalition

Sponsor: Thurston Economic Development Council

Host: Gina Stark, Economic Development Manager, Port of Bellingham & WEDA Incoming Board Chair

Fireside Chat: *Successful Strategies Towards a More Equitable Economic Future*

Sponsor: Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

Moderator: Gina Stark, Economic Development Manager, Port of Bellingham & WEDA Incoming Board Chair

Featured Speakers:

- Andrea Caupain Sanderson, Co-Executive Director, BIPOC ED Coalition
- Marvo Reguindin, Executive Director, AHANA
- Paula Sardinas, CEO & President, FMS Global Strategies and Founder, Washington Build Back Black Alliance
- Shirlene Wilson, Executive Director, Washington Employers for Racial Equity
- Beto Yarce, Region X Administrator, US Small Business Administration

2:00-2:15 pm

Networking Break

2:15-3:15 pm

Breakouts 1: *Innovative Resources for Equitable Economic Development* (choose 1):

Clearing Hurdles with Equitable Investments in Broadband Infrastructure –

Grand Ballroom A

Sponsor: Port of Vancouver USA

Moderator: Gina Stark, Economic Development Manager, Port of Bellingham & WEDA Board Incoming Chair

Panelists:

- Paul Kimmel, Regional Business Manager, Avista
- Nick Pappin, Digital Equity & Broadband Director, WSU Extension Broadband Resources
- Ariane Schmidt, Executive Director, Broadlinc, Spokane Regional Broadband Development Authority
- Aaron Wheeler, Director, Washington State Broadband Office

Fostering Arts & Culture and Equity & Vitality in Our Creative Industries –

Meeting Room 4

Sponsor: Minority Business Development Agency Washington Business Center

Moderator: Nathan Daum, Economic Development Program Manager, City of Shoreline & WEDA Board Member

Panelists:

- Ginger Ewing, Executive Director, Terrain & Board Member, Artist Trust
- Shannon Halberstadt, Creative Economy Sector Lead, Washington State Department of Commerce
- Jose Iniguez, President & Executive Director, Encanto Arts
- Ryker, CEO, directINFLUX

Strategies for a More Equitable Future for Small Business – Meeting Room 5

Sponsor: Washington Small Business Development Center

Moderator: Jonathan Smith, Executive Director, Yakima County Development Association & WEDA Board Member

Panelists:

- Sue Kane, PhD., CEO, NCW Tech Alliance
- Antonia Stinnett, Program Manager, Grow America (*formerly National Development Council*)
- Martin Valadez, Executive Director, Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Linda Womack, Managing Director, Small Business Finance & Community Support, Washington State Department of Commerce

3:15-3:30 pm

Networking & Snack Break – Grand Ballroom Lobby

3:30-4:30 pm

Breakouts 2: *Sprinting Together with Effective Partnerships* (choose 1):

Creative Intergovernmental & Public/Private Partnerships to Foster a More Equitable & Sustainable Future – Grand Ballroom A

Sponsor: Clallam Economic Development Council

Moderator: Stephen McFadden, Director of Economic Development & Marketing, Port of Pasco & WEDA Board Member

Panelists:

- Michaele Armstrong, PhD, CEO, Evergreen Bioscience Innovation Cluster
- Jennifer Baker, President & CEO, Columbia River Economic Development Council & WEDA Board Treasurer
- Maria Cullooyah, Director of Public Works & Utilities, Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Gary Ivory, General Manager, Douglas County Public Utility District – on behalf of Pacific Northwest Renewable Hydrogen Association
- John Sklut, Senior Advisor to the President & Liaison for External & Governmental Affairs, Gonzaga University - American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center, TechHub

Sprinting Ahead to Address the Workforce & Attainable Housing Crisis –

Meeting Room 4

Sponsor: Grow America

Moderator: Susan Yirku, Executive Director, Pacific County Economic Development Council & Chair, WEDA Workforce/Attainable Housing Work Group

Panelists:

- Kateesha Atterberry, Founder & Managing Director, Urban Black LLC
- Deb Elzinga, President & CEO, Community Frameworks
- Tedd Kelleher, Director of Housing Policy, Washington State Department of Commerce
- John Milne, CEO, Oldivai Capital LLC
- Ben Stuckart, Executive Director, Spokane Low-Income Housing Consortium

Fostering a More Equitable Future in Workforce Development – Meeting Room 5

Sponsor: Employment Security Department

Moderator: Katie Condit, Chief Executive Officer, Workforce Central & WEDA Board Member

Panelists:

- Kerra Bower, Owner/Director, Little Scholars Development Center; Founder, Raze Development Center
- Cami Feek, Commissioner, Washington State Employment Security Department
- Kelley Charvet, Chief Administrative Officer, CHAS Health; Immediate Past Board Chair, Spokane Workforce Development Council
- Dennis Sisco-Taylor, PhD, Assistant Professor & Director, School of Psychology Gonzaga University; Board Member, Child Care Aware
- Shellie Willis, Senior Director of Collective Impact, Workforce Central

Meet in the Davenport Grand Lobby at 5:10 pm to walk to The Podium with WEDA leaders.

5:30-7:30 pm

Celebrating Juneteenth, Spokane & All of Washington State's More Equitable Economic Future – "Half-Time" Networking Reception with a Special Performance by Soul Musician Jason Garrett Evans & Co.

The Podium Powered by STCU

511 Joe Albi Way, Spokane

Sponsor: Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County

Host: Betty Capestany, Pierce County Director of Economic Development & WEDA Board Chair

Featured Speaker:

- **Washington State Commission on African American Affairs Chair & Pastor, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Spokane, Reverend Walter J. Kendricks**

ALSO HONORING WEDA'S 2024 LEGISLATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAMPIONS

**State Senator Lynda Wilson
State Representative Chris Corry
State Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig *
State Representative Alicia Rule ***

** Will be accepting award at later date –*

State Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee Vice Chair Noel Frame, a prior WEDA Economic Development Champion award recipient, will be delivering brief remarks honoring them

Join us for a special reception at The Podium Powered by STCU. We will enjoy a special performance by soul musician Jason Garrett Evans and his three piece band.

Dress code: business casual -- WEDA conference registrants must wear their nametags, please. There will be a speaking program at approximately 6:15 pm.

About The Podium: *Spokane has a long resume of hosting successful sports events—from local to national to international championships. Building on Spokane's already excellent reputation as a city for athletes, Spokane Public Facilities District, along with Spokane Sports, proudly present this all-new destination sports venue — The Podium Powered by STCU. A unique competition venue designed for ultimate athlete and fan convenience sitting high on 15-foot basalt outcropping, overlooking downtown Spokane and connected to Riverfront Park, The Podium Powered by STCU is located in the heart of downtown Spokane. This spectacular setting is strategically positioned near Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena and Spokane Convention Center, making Spokane a premier destination for a wide variety of combined events.*

8:00-9:30 pm

Building Our Pipeline: Emerging Leaders Gathering – pre-registration requested through Swapcard once open

ZOLA Restaurant & Live Music Bar – Tilt Room
22 West Main Ave, Spokane

9:30 pm

Building Connections & Sprinting Together: After Hours No-Host Get Together
– The Grand Restaurant & Lounge, Davenport Grand

Thursday, June 20

8:00-8:40 am Breakfast - Networking Activities (Affinity Groupings) – Grand Ballroom A

8:40-9:45 am **Morning General Session: “Bringing Washington to the World” - Economic Opportunities for Washington through FIFA 2026 and Beyond**

Sponsor: Port of Seattle

Host: Mandy Wallner, Economic Development Manager, City of Richland & WEDA Board Vice Chair

Local Government Welcome: Chair of the Spokane County Board of Commissioners
Mary Kuney

Keynote Speaker: Peter Tomozawa, CEO, SeattleFWC26 (FIFA World Cup 26 Local Organizing Committee)

***About FIFA World Cup 26™:** The FIFA World Cup 26™ will be the biggest sporting event ever – three Host Countries, 16 Host Cities, 48 teams, and 104 matches uniting an entire continent to showcase a momentous new tournament format while keeping the exciting 4-team groups to ensure the ultimate football spectacle. With more countries, cities, teams, and games, FIFA World Cup 26™ will unite the entire world on the biggest stage ever and will engage millions of fans across 16 stadiums and billions worldwide. The tournament will take place in June and July 2026.*

***About SeattleFWC26:** SeattleFWC26 is the local organizing committee for Seattle’s participation as one of the 16 host cities selected for the FIFA World Cup 26™. As a not-for-profit organization, SeattleFWC26’s vision is to foster a lasting legacy for our region, guided by the spirit of soccer, innovation and inclusion. A big part of getting ready for six FIFA World Cup 26™ matches, traveling fans, and teams from around the world needing fields for practice and “base camps” for their World Cup travels is improving field surfaces and playing facilities statewide. With the state’s economy benefiting from the 750,000 visitors expected to travel throughout Washington, investments in fields and facilities today will pay off not only during the games, but in the positive legacy they will provide to future teams, events and athletes. For these reasons and more, the Washington State Legislature stepped up in the recent session to allocate \$15 million toward initial improvements – from stadium modernizations at Lumen Field, to upgrading soccer fields at likely practice facilities around the state. Additionally, the Legislature invested \$1 million for statewide tourism opportunities.*

State Partnerships for a More Equitable Future: Capitalizing on FIFA 2026 & Statewide Tourism Opportunities

Sponsor: Washington State Department of Commerce

Moderator: Bruce Kendall, President & CEO, Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County & WEDA Board Member

- State Representative Brandy Donaghy (D-44th District-Vice Chair, Innovation, Community & Development & Veterans Committee)
- David Blandford, Executive Director, State of WA Tourism

9:45-10:00 am Networking Break

10:00-11:00 am

Breakouts 3: *Fostering Forward-Thinking Economic Opportunities* (choose 1):

Economic Development Teamwork in Action: Spokane's Successful Sports & Recreation Tourism Strategies – Grand Ballroom A

Sponsor: Yakima County Development Association

Moderator: Moderator: Gary Ballew, Vice President for Economic Development, Greater Spokane Inc. & WEDA Board Member

Panelists:

- Anna Alsept, Director of Sports Management, Spokane Sports
- Stephanie Curran, CEO, Spokane Public Facilities District
- Katie Harnetiaux, Co-Owner & President, USL Spokane
- Lisa Simpson, Senior Director of Partnership & Engagement, Visit Spokane

Forward-Thinking Best Practices from Our Emerging Leaders – Meeting Room 4

Featuring: A Panel of WEDA's Emerging Leaders & Information about Getting Involved

Moderator: Sarah Cho, City Center Program Manager, City of Lynnwood & Co-Chair of WEDA's Emerging Leaders Group

Sponsor: Columbia River Economic Development Council

Moderator: Sarah Cho, City Center Program Manager, City of Lynnwood & Co-Chair of WEDA's Emerging Leaders Group

Panelists:

- Ryan Bush, Economic Development-Tourism Project Manager, City of Lynnwood
- Katie Enders, Assistant Planner for Economic Development, Puget Sound Regional Council & Co-Chair of WEDA's Emerging Leaders Group
- Kyle Niehenke, Executive Director, Adams County Development Council
- Sy Ruiz, Public Relations & Development Director, OIC of Washington

Rural Is Underserved: Forward-Thinking for Opportunity in Rural Washington –

Meeting Room 5

Sponsor: Pacific Power

Moderator: Brant Mayo, Executive Director, Grant County Economic Development Council & WEDA Board Member

Panelists:

- Michael Gaffney, Assistant Extension Director, Community & Economic Development, Washington State University
- Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director, Economic Alliance (Okanogan County) & WEDA Board Member
- Lynn Longan, Rural & Small Business Manager, WA State Dept. of Commerce
- Helen Price Johnson, State Director, USDA Rural Development

11:00-11:15 am

Networking Break – ***Preparing for the 4th Quarter!***

- 11:15 am-12:00 pm **General Session: A More Equitable Economy for Washington – Assessing Our Progress & Forecasting Our Future** – Grand Ballroom A
Sponsor: Impact Washington
Moderator: Michael Cade, Executive Director, Thurston Economic Development Council & WEDA Board Secretary
- Featured Speakers:
- **Dr. Vange Ocasio Hochheimer, PhD, Economics & Finance, Whitworth University**
 - **Anneliese Vance-Sherman, PhD, Chief Labor Economist, Washington State Employment Security Department**
- 12:00-1:00 pm Lunch
- 12:10-1:30 pm **Closing General Session: *Sprinting Ahead Together Toward a More Equitable Future***
Sponsor: King County
Host: Betty Capestany, Pierce County Director of Economic Development & WEDA Board Chair
- Fireside Chat - Sprinting, Dribbling, Skating, Leaping Forward Together: Impactful Economic Development through Sports & Recreation***
Sponsor: Pierce County
Moderator: Mike Bomar, Chief Economic Strategy Officer, Port of Vancouver, USA & WEDA Board Member
- Panelists:
- Rich Austin, Director of Sports Development, Yakima Valley Sports Commission
 - Ashley Blake, Chief Executive Officer, Spokane Sports
 - Ashley Fosberg, Vice President of Philanthropy, Seattle Sounders FC; Executive Director, RAVE Foundation
 - Beth Knox, President & Chief Executive Officer, Seattle Sports Commission & SEA 2026 Bid Committee Co-Chair
 - Jeff Koffel, Executive Director, Tri County Economic Development District and Northeast Washington Tourism & Recreation
- 1:15-1:30 pm WEDA Annual Meeting, Board & Officer Elections, Action Items & Next Steps

2025 WEDA WINTER CONFERENCE

Please save **March 25-27, 2025** for our annual Winter Conference in Olympia!
Watch www.wedaonline.org for details.

Thank You to Our 2024 Sponsors

